

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 SCA-01 L-03 DRC-01

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R 200525Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 052

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL CHIENGMAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 5701

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: PATHET LAO MEDIA ATTACK AMERICAN MONKS

REF: FBIS BANGKOK 181012Z JUL 74

1. FBIS BANGKOK HAS CARRIED SEVERAL ITEMS RECENTLY REPORTING PATHET LAO MEDIA ATTACKS ON PRESENCE OF TWO AMERICAN MONKS AT BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN VIENTIANE. INITIAL RADIO PATHET LAO RADIO REPORTS ALLEGED THAT MONKS WERE IMPROPERLY ORDAINED AND SHOULD BE DEFROCKED AND OBLIGED TO LEAVE LAOS. EMBASSY OFFICER, WHO FOLLOWS BUDDHIST MATTERS, WAS TOLD JUNE 13 BY MONKS IN QUESTION (ONE OF WHOM IS BRITISH RATHER THAN AMERICAN) THAT PROCEDURES FOLLOWED BY ABBOT OF WAT ONG TU DURING THEIR ORDAINMENT WERE NOT AS STRICT AS SCRIPTURES REQUIRE. THEY ALSO MENTIONED THEY WERE TRYING TO HAVE THEIR VISAS EXTENDED SO THEY COULD PROCEED TO MEDITATION TEMPLE, WAT TAT THONG, IN JUNGLE JUST NORTH OF VIENTIANE.

2. REFERENCE INDICATES THAT PATHET LAO ARE CONTINUING TO SEEK POLITICAL MILEAGE ON THIS SITUATION. PATHET LAO NEWS AGENCY NOW ALLEGES THAT "PEOPLE IN VIENTIANE" ARE
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DEMANDING EXPULSION OF "THREE AMERICAN SPIES" WHO DIS-

GUISE THEMSELVES AS BUDDHIST MONKS IN ORDER TO "ENGAGE
IN ESPIONAGE AGAINST PEACE AND NATIONAL CONCORD."

3. WHATEVER MAY BE THE MERITS OF THE MONKS' RELIGIOUS
STATUS, POLITICALLY THE INTERESTING POINT IS THAT THIS
EPISODE INDICATES THE CONTINUING PL CONCERN OVER
AMERICAN "SPIES" AND EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY SUCH "SPIES."
WHITEHOUSE

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